

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SEDU, OECD
SUBJECT: JULY 20 COUNCIL MEETING - PREPARATIONS FOR
MINISTERIAL MEETING OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE

REF: A. STATE 182778, B. C(78)124

1. JULY 20 HEADS OF DEL MEETING AND SUBSEQUENTLY COUNCIL
ACCEPTED SECGEN'S DRAFT ENTRY (REF B). VIRTUALLY ALL
DELEGATES SAID DOCUMENTS WERE TOO LONG AND SHOULD NOT
EXCEED FIVE PAGES, AS RECOMMENDED BY EDUCATION COM-
MITTEE DURING ITS MAY MEETING. SEVERAL DELEGATES,
INCLUDING U.S., ALSO COMPLAINED ABOUT LATE ARRIVAL OF
DOCUMENTS AND, AS RESULT, THEIR INABILITY TO COMMENT
SUBSTANTIVELY ON THEM. UK, SUPPORTED BY SWITZERLAND,
GREECE, AND CANADA, THOUGHT THE DOCUMENTS WERE TOO
POLEMICAL IN TONE AND MADE EXCESSIVE
REFERENCES TO WHAT "MINISTERS" MIGHT, SHOULD, OR COULD
DO. SEVERAL DELS ALSO AGREED WITH U.S. POSITION
THAT DOCUMENTS WERE MORE DETAILED THAN WE HAD
EXPECTED, I.E. PARA 10 OF C(78)8 WHICH DISCUSSES
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DEFINITIVE LISTS OF EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES AND PARA
22(III) OF C(78)7 WHICH DISCUSSES VIRTUES OF GREATER
DECENTRALIZATION.

2. WHILE ALL DELS ACCEPTED SECGEN'S PROPOSALS TO
INVITE THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF ORGANIZATIONS OF
TEACHING PROFESSIONS (WCOTP) TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS

ON THE DOCUMENTS, IRISH DEL WONDERED WHETHER THIS WOULD RESULT IN TOO WIDE A CIRCULATION OF RESTRICTED DOCUMENTS. SECRETARIAT (GASS) RESPONDED THAT WHEN SUBMITTING DOCUMENTS TO THIS ORGANIZATION, THE SEC GEN WILL SPECIFY CLEARLY THAT THE DOCUMENTS ARE NOT FOR WIDE CIRCULATION BUT RATHER FOR INTERNAL WCOTP USE. JAPAN REITERATED ITS POSITION THAT WHILE IT COULD ACCEPT SEC GEN'S FORMULA, THE GOJ DID NOT WISH TO EXTEND FORMAL CONSULTATIONS TO ORGANIZATIONS OTHER THAN THE BIAC AND THE TUAC.

3. SEVERAL DELS INQUIRED AS TO THE NEED FOR BOTH A DECLARATION AND A COMMUNIQUE AND EXPRESSED THE DESIRE TO HAVE FINAL DRAFTS OF ALL DOCUMENTS INCLUDING DECLARATION AND COMMUNIQUE BY END OF AUGUST RATHER THAN SEPT 15 AS PROPOSED BY SEC GEN. IN RESPONSE, SECRETARIAT REQUESTED DELEGATIONS TO PROVIDE WRITTEN COMMENTS WITHIN NEXT TEN DAYS SO THAT FINAL DOCUMENTS WILL BE READY BY EARLY SEPTEMBER.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WRITTEN COMMENTS ON C(78)7 AND C(78)8 BY COB AUGUST 4.
SALZMAN

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